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## **Formation of phosphonylated thiiranes in the reaction of a diazomethanephosphonate and cycloaliphatic thioketones**

Mloston, G ; Urbaniak, K ; Lesniak, S ; Wasiak, P ; Heimgartner, H

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# FORMATION OF PHOSPHONYLATED THIIRANES IN THE REACTION OF A DIAZOMETHANEPHOSPHONATE AND CYCLOALIPHATIC THIOKETONES

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Dedicated to Professor Yoshito Kishi at the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

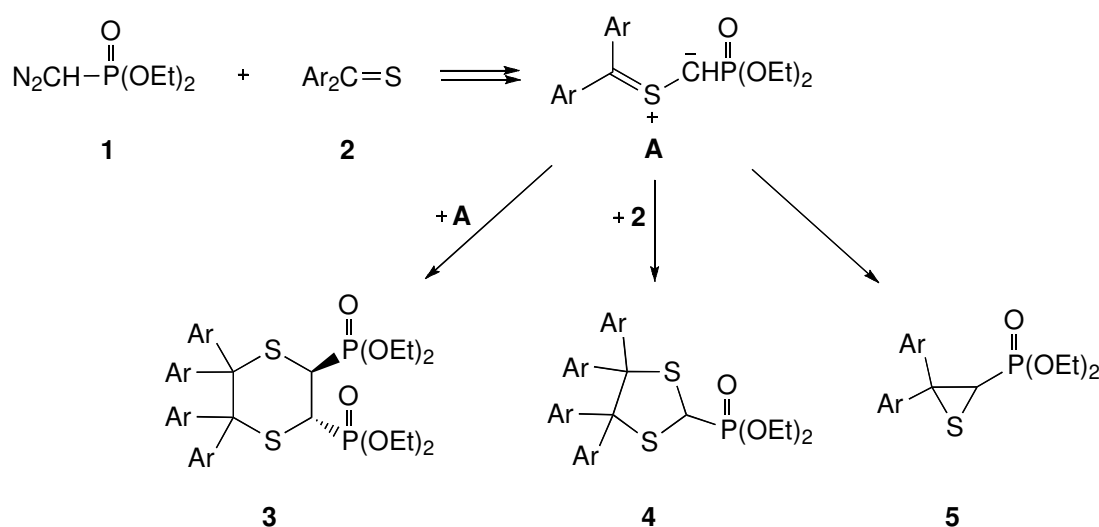
**Abstract** – The reaction of diethyl diazomethanephosphonate (**1**) with cycloaliphatic thioketones (**6**) in THF at room temperature leads to the corresponding thiirane-2-phosphonates (**7**) in good yield. A reaction mechanism via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of the diazo compound with the C=S group to give the 2,5-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazole-2-phosphonate as an intermediate, which spontaneously eliminates nitrogen is most likely. The resulting thiocarbonyl ylide undergoes a 1,3-dipolar electrocyclization to yield a thiirane. These products can be desulfurized smoothly by treatment with tris(diethylamino)phosphine to give  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated phosphonates.

## INTRODUCTION

In a recent paper we described the reaction of diethyl diazomethanephosphonate (**1**) with aromatic thioketones (**2**).<sup>1</sup> The most reactive thioketones, i.e., 9*H*-fluorene-9-thione and thiobenzophenone, in THF reacted with **1** at temperatures below 0 °C to give 1,4-dithianes (**3**) and 1,3-dithiolanes (**4**), respectively (*Scheme 1*). On the other hand, the less reactive 9*H*-xanthene-9-thione and **1** in refluxing toluene yielded the corresponding thiirane (**5**) together with the phosphonylated ethylene as the product of a spontaneous

desulfurization. The formation of all these products can be explained by subsequent reactions of in situ generated thiocarbonyl ylides of type **A**. These sulfur-containing 1,3-dipoles have been studied extensively in recent time.<sup>2,3</sup> It is well established that the reaction of thiocarbonyl compounds with diazo compounds offers a very efficient access to these reactive intermediates, which are attractive building blocks for the preparation of diverse thiaheterocycles.<sup>4</sup> The use of phosphonylated diazomethanes opens a convenient route to phosphonylated products in a one-pot reaction.

*Scheme 1*



Thiiranes are useful three-membered heterocycles which can be applied in the synthesis of more complex systems.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, some thiiranes found application as pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals or materials with special properties.<sup>6</sup> It is also well known that the phosphonyl group is an important unit in organic compounds with respect to their biological activities and physicochemical properties.<sup>7</sup> For this reason, hitherto very little known phosphonylated thiiranes of type (**5**) attracted our interest. The earlier studies (see ref.<sup>3</sup>) showed that aliphatic thiocarbonyl ylides prefer to undergo a 1,3-dipolar electrocyclization to give thiiranes instead of dimerization to **3** and 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions to yield **4**.

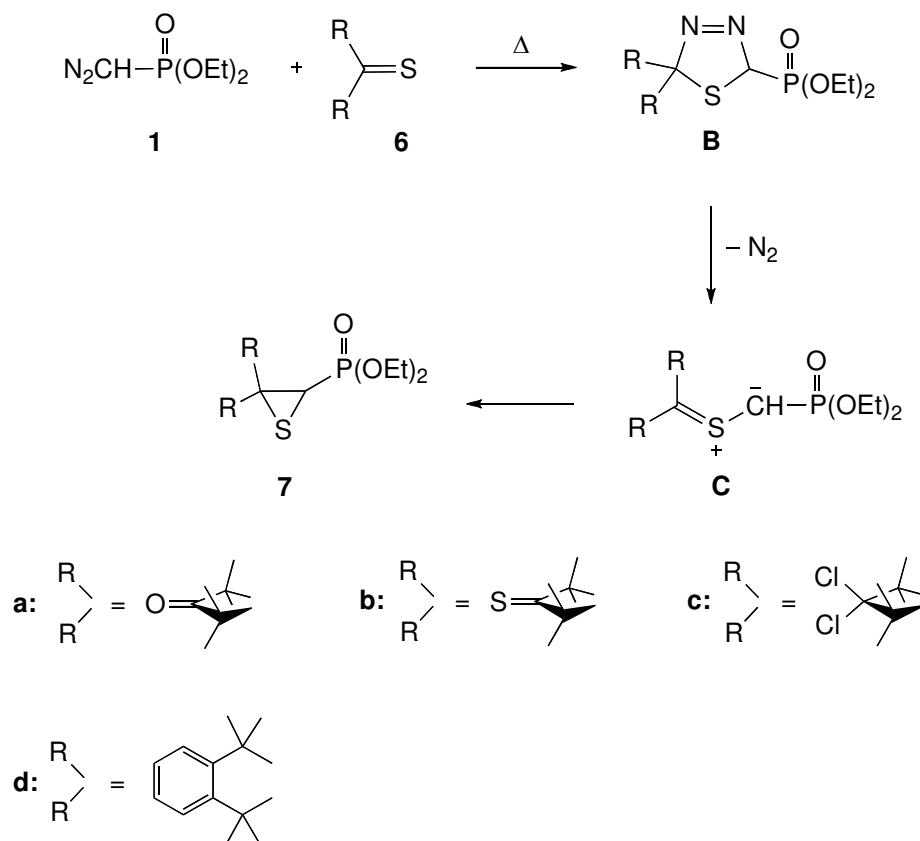
The aim of the present work was to examine the behavior of **1** in reactions with a series of cycloaliphatic thioketones (**6**) and to compare the reactivity of **1** with that of ethyl diazoacetate, which was the subject of an earlier study.<sup>8</sup>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sterically crowded 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-3-thioxocyclobutanone (**6a**)<sup>9</sup> and the corresponding dithione (**6b**)<sup>10</sup> are favorite model compounds for studies on the reactivity of the  $\text{C}=\text{S}$  function. Recently, we described the synthesis of 3,3-dichloro-2,2,4,4-tetramethylcyclobutanethione (**6c**) as a new example of a

stable and synthetically useful thioketone.<sup>11,12</sup> Typically, equimolar amounts of **1** and **6** in THF solution were heated to reflux whereby evolution of N<sub>2</sub> was observed. After 1–5 h, the red color of **6** vanished indicating the completion of the reaction. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the crude mixtures showed in each case the formation of only one product in almost quantitative yield, which are characterized by a doublet at ca. 2.70–3.05 ppm with <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H,P</sub> ≈ 9.4 Hz. Pure products were obtained in moderate yields after crystallization from hexane. Attempted chromatographic workup led to decomposition of the products. The crystalline compounds were identified as thiiranes (**7a–c**) on the basis of their spectroscopic and analytical data (*Scheme 2*). In the reaction of **1** with 1,1,3,3-tetramethylindane-2-thione (**6d**) in THF under reflux, the expected thiirane (**7d**) was obtained as the sole product.

*Scheme 2*

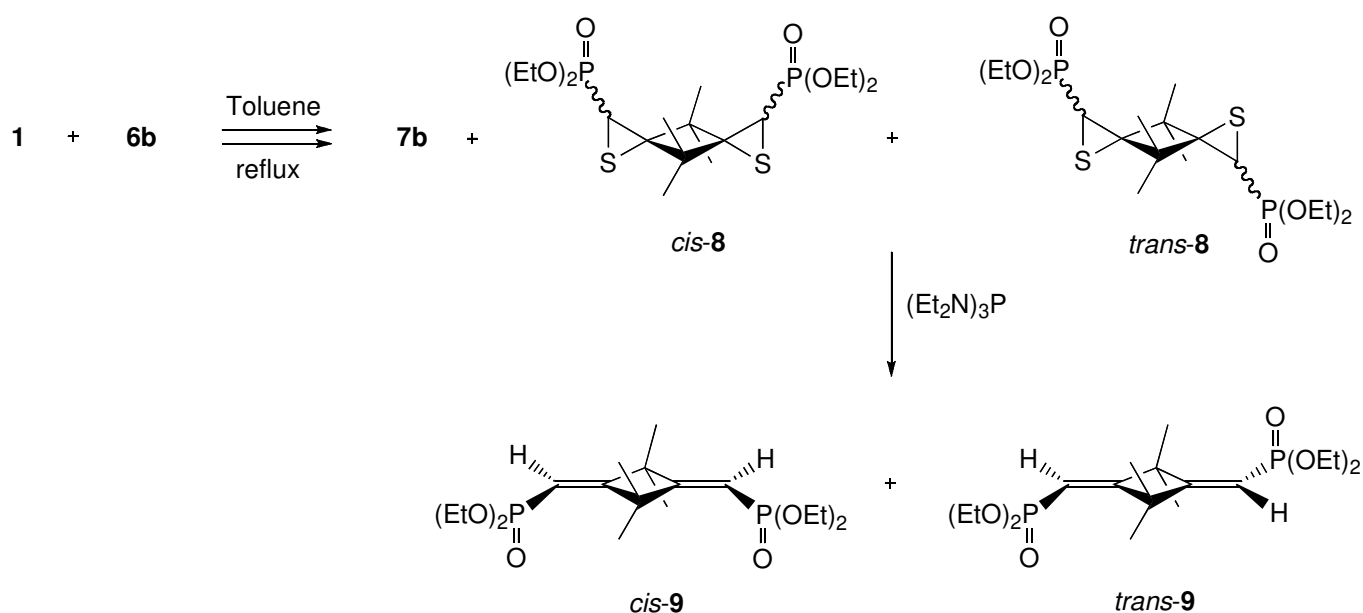


In order to test the thermal stability of the thiiranes (**7**), the reaction of **1** with **6a** was carried out in refluxing toluene. After addition of **6a**, the decolorization occurred immediately. According to the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum, **7a** was formed quantitatively, and no desulfurized product could be detected.

The analogous reaction of equimolar amounts of **1** and **6b** in refluxing toluene gave a mixture of **7b** and the stereoisomeric 2:1 products (*cis*-**8**) and (*trans*-**8**) (*Scheme 3*). When **1** was used in a three-fold excess, the mixture contained only bithiiranes **8** as a mixture of four diastereoisomers, which could be separated

neither by fractional crystallization nor by column chromatography. Desulfurization of the mixture obtained after attempted crystallization from hexane yielded the two bis-phosphonates *cis*-**9** and *trans*-**9** in a ratio of 1:4 ( $^1\text{H}$ -NMR). After crystallization and subsequent separation by preparative layer chromatography, the *trans*-isomer was obtained in pure form, which showed only one signal for 4 Me groups at 1.49 and 25.9 ppm, respectively.<sup>13</sup>

Scheme 3

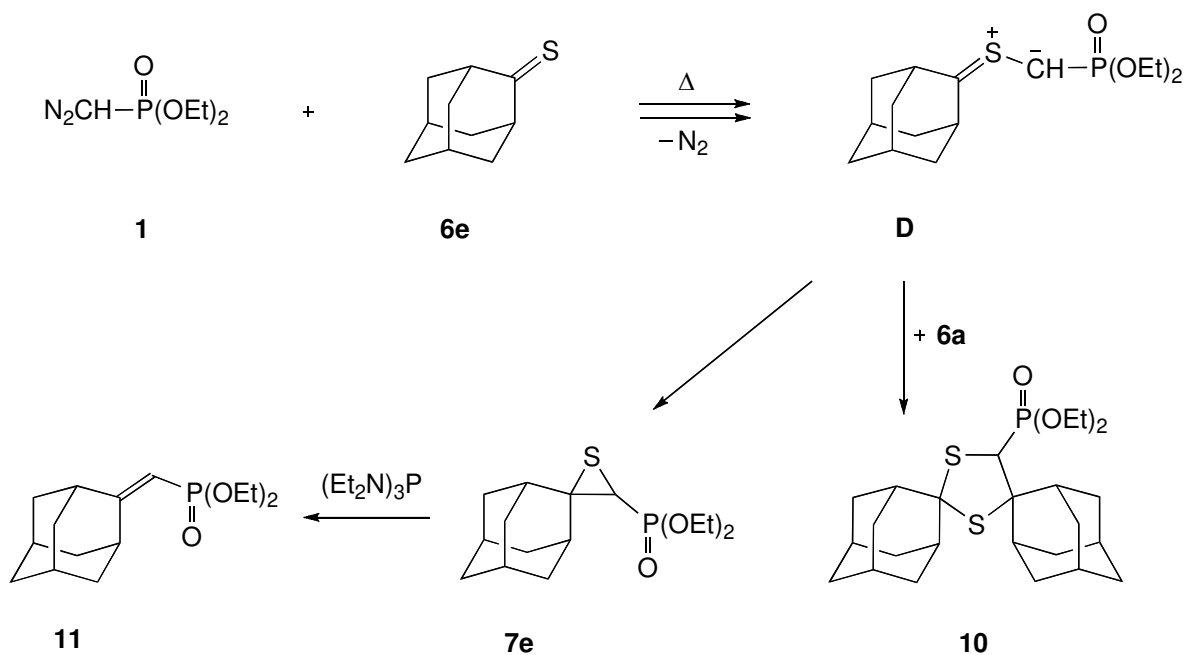


Whereas the reaction of **1** with adamantanethione (**6e**) in boiling toluene afforded the phosphonylated thiirane (**7e**) exclusively, heating of a mixture of **1** and **6e** in THF led to **7e** along with a second product, which in the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum showed a doublet located at 2.9 ppm ( $^2J_{\text{H,P}} \approx 15.2$  Hz). After decolorization of the reaction mixture, the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum evidenced the presence of substantial amounts of **1**, which only after addition of another 0.5 equivalents of **6e** was completely consumed. In analogy to the thiiranes (**7a–d**), the doublet at 2.65 ppm ( $^2J_{\text{H,P}} \approx 9.6$  Hz) can be attributed to **7e**. For the second product, the structure of 1,3-dithiolane (**10**) is likely, similar to the result of the reaction of **6e** with ethyl diazoacetate.<sup>8</sup> All attempts to separate **7e** and **10** by chromatography ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) or crystallization were unsuccessful. For this reason, the crude reaction mixture, which was obtained in boiling toluene, was desulfurized by heating it with  $(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_3\text{P}$  in THF solution. After chromatographic workup, (adamantylidene)methanephosphonate (**11**, Scheme 4) was isolated as a viscous oil in 56% yield.

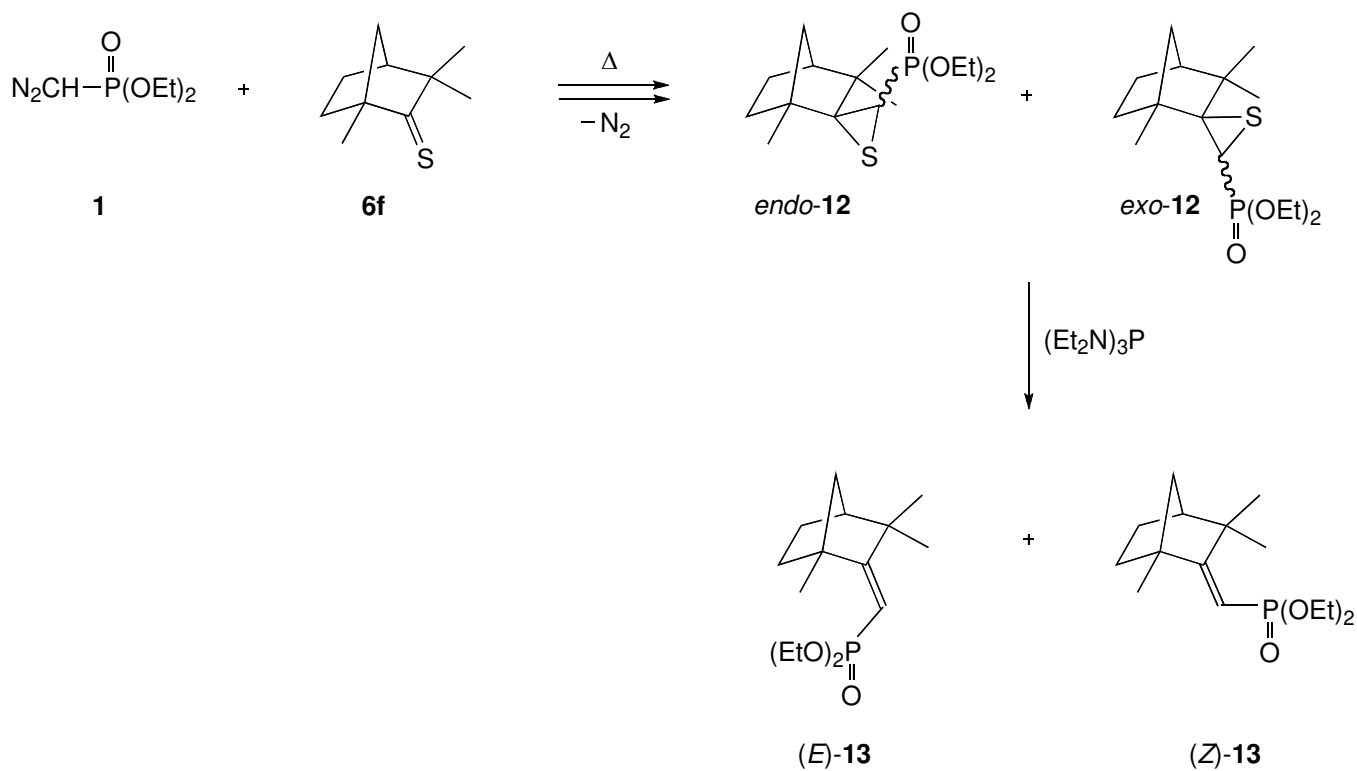
For the reaction of **1** with thiofenchone (**6f**), four stereoisomeric thiiranes can be expected.<sup>14</sup> However, the experiment carried out in refluxing toluene gave only two products, which were identified by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectroscopy as thiiranes of type (**12**), based on the presence of two doublets at 2.75 and 2.80 ppm with  $^2J_{\text{H,P}} \approx 4.8$  Hz and 3.6 Hz, respectively. The ratio of the products was estimated to *ca.* 3:1.<sup>16</sup> Similar

to the examples shown in *Scheme 3* and *4*, desulfurization occurred smoothly by treatment with  $(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_3\text{P}$ , leading to a mixture of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-**13**, in which the ratio of the components is preserved (*Scheme 5*). After column chromatography ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), the major isomer was isolated in pure form.

*Scheme 4*

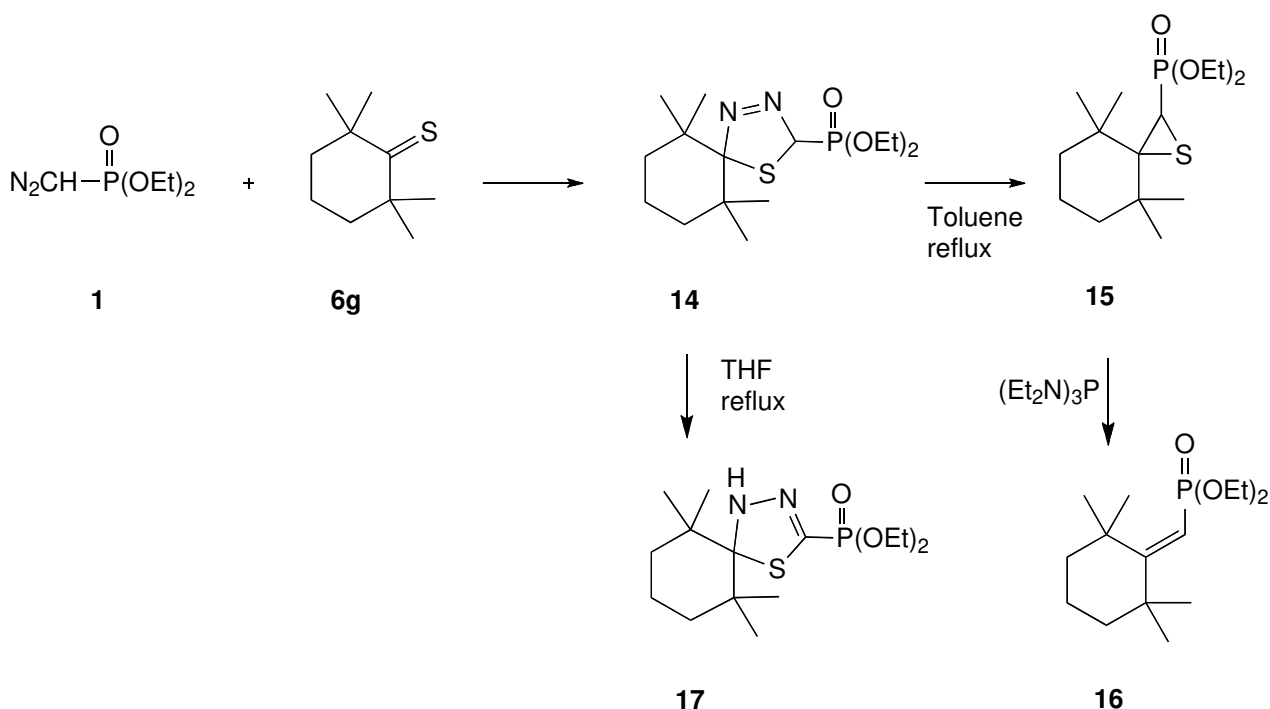


*Scheme 5*



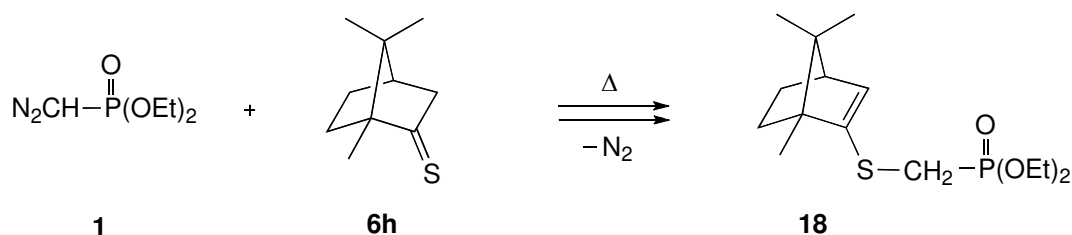
The sterically crowded 2,2,6,6-tetramethylcyclohexanethione (**6g**) reacted with **1** in boiling toluene to give thiirane (**15**), which without isolation was desulfurized by treatment with  $(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_3\text{P}$  to give the expected  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated phosphonate (**16**) in 53% yield (*Scheme 6*). However, in a single experiment, which was carried out in refluxing THF solution, no evolution of  $\text{N}_2$  was observed, indicating that no thiocarbonyl ylide is formed. In contrast to other products of the reactions of **1** and **6a–f**, the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of the crystalline material obtained from **1** and **6g** in this experiment did not reveal any signal around 2.5 ppm, which is characteristic for CH of thiiranes of type **7**. Instead, a broad signal appeared at 6.60 ppm. In the IR spectrum (KBr), an absorption at  $3250\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated the presence of an NH group. The MS spectrum and the elemental analyses confirmed the molecular formula of 1:1 adduct of **1** and **6g**. Based on these data and in analogy to a previously described compound,<sup>17</sup> the structure of the 2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-thiadiazole (**17**) was attributed to this product (*Scheme 7*). A fast tautomerization of the initially formed **14** offers a plausible explanation for the formation of **17**.<sup>18</sup>

*Scheme 6*



Thiocamphor (**6h**) is known to undergo easily [2+3]-cycloadditions with diazomethane below  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .<sup>15</sup> Subsequent elimination of  $\text{N}_2$  at  $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  leads to 2-methylsulfanyl-2-bornene, which is an isomer of the intermediate thiocarbonyl *S*-methanide. The formation of this product is explained by a 1,4-H-shift in the ylide (see also ref.<sup>20</sup>). In the present study, heating of a mixture of **1** and **6h** in THF yielded again only one product ( $^1\text{H}$ -NMR) with two doublets at 2.94 ( $^2J_{\text{H,P}} \approx 16.0\text{ Hz}$ ) and 5.58 ppm ( $^3J_{\text{H,H}} \approx 4.3\text{ Hz}$ ). These data are in accordance with structure (**18**, *Scheme 7*), which is formed *via* an analogous 1,4-H-shift.

Scheme 7



In conclusion, reactions with aliphatic thioketones extend the synthetic applications of diazomethane phosphonates and open a straightforward access to phosphonylated thiiranes (**7**). These products can be desulfurized smoothly to give  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated phosphonates. From the mechanistic point of view, the reactions proceed *via* a regioselective [2+3]-cycloaddition, followed by  $\text{N}_2$  elimination leading to reactive thiocarbonyl ylides, which, on turn, undergo a 1,3-dipolar electrocycloaddition. In contrast, the more reactive aromatic thioketones and **1** form phosphonylated thiocarbonyl ylides, which preferably dimerize or capture the starting thioketone to give 1,3-dithiolanes (*Schönberg* products).<sup>1</sup>

## EXPERIMENTAL

*General remarks.* Melting points were determined in a capillary using a *MEL-TEMP II* apparatus (Aldrich) and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in KBr pellets or as films with a *Nexus* spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR, and  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR spectra were registered in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  on a *Tesla BS 687* instrument ( $^1\text{H}$  at 80 MHz) or a *Bruker AC-300* spectrometer ( $^1\text{H}$  at 300,  $^{13}\text{C}$  at 75, and  $^{31}\text{P}$  at 121 MHz, resp.) using TMS ( $\delta = 0$  ppm) as an internal and 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  as an external standard.  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR peak assignments were made on the basis of DEPT measurements. MS (CI) were recorded on a *Finnigan-Mat-90* or *Finnigan-SSQ-700* spectrometer;  $m/z$  (rel.%). Elemental analyses were performed in the Analytical Laboratory of the University of Zürich.

*Starting materials.* Ethyl diazomethanephosphonate (**1**) was prepared by the *Seyferth* method.<sup>21</sup> 2,2,4,4-Tetramethyl-3-thioxocyclobutanone (**6a**),<sup>22</sup> 2,2,4,4-tetramethylcyclobutane-1,3-dithione (**6b**),<sup>22</sup> 3,3-dichloro-2,2,4,4-tetramethylcyclobutanethione (**6c**),<sup>11</sup> 2-adamantanethione (**6e**),<sup>23</sup> 1,1,3,3-tetramethylindan-2-thione (**6d**),<sup>24</sup> 2,2,6,6-tetramethylcyclohexanethione (**6g**),<sup>25</sup> thiofenchone (**6f**),<sup>26</sup> and thiocamphor (**6h**)<sup>26</sup> were synthesized by thionation of corresponding ketones following the literature procedure.

*Reactions of thioketones 6a–d with diethyl diazomethanephosphonate (1); isolation of thiiranes 7a–d.*

*General procedure.* A solution of the corresponding thione **6** (1 mmol) and **1** (1 mmol) in dry THF (1



mL) was heated under reflux for 1 h (5 h in the case of **6d**). After evaporation of the solvent, the crude mixtures were analyzed by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectroscopy and purified by crystallization. Yields refer to isolated and purified products.

*Diethyl (4,4,6,6-tetramethyl-5-oxo-1-thiaspiro[2.3]hexane)-2-phosphonate (7a)*. Yield: 180 mg (59%). Colorless crystals (hexane); mp 71–73 °C. IR (KBr): 2958s, 2929m, 1783vs (C=O), 1460m, 1442m, 1256s and 1242s (P=O), 1047vs and 1022vs (P–O–C), 971s, 540s.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.09 (d,  $J_{\text{H,P}} = 1.3$  Hz, Me), 1.27, 1.31, 1.53 (3s, 3 Me), 1.36, 1.37 (2t,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.1$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.99 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H,P}} = 9.4$  Hz, CH), 4.15–4.27 (m, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 16.4, 16.5 (2d,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 6.7$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 22.5, 22.7, 23.4, 24.0 (4 Me), 31.5 (d,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 192$  Hz, CH), 61.9, 62.3 (2s, 2 C<sub>q</sub>), 63.2, 63.4 (2d,  $^2J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 6.8$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 65.7 (d,  $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 2.8$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>S), 218.5 (C=O).  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 20.97. CI-MS ( $\text{NH}_3$ ): 630 (6,  $[2M+\text{NH}_4]^+$ ), 613 (19,  $[2M+1]^+$ ), 581 (11), 325 (16), 324 (100,  $[M+\text{NH}_4]^+$ ), 307 (31). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>4</sub>PS: C, 50.97; H, 7.57; S, 10.47. Found: C, 50.63; H, 7.63; S, 10.15.

*Diethyl (4,4,6,6-tetramethyl-5-thioxo-1-thiaspiro[2.3]hexane)-2-phosphonate (7b)*. Yield: 200 mg (62%). Orange crystals (petroleum ether); mp 82–84 °C. IR (KBr): 2971s, 2953s, 1451m, 1394m, 1299s, 1239vs (P=O), 1107s, 1048vs and 1019vs (P–O–C), 975s, 870m, 541m.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.16, 1.33, 1.36, 1.60 (4s, 4 Me), 1.37–1.40 (m, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.03 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H,P}} = 9.2$  Hz, CH), 4.16–4.27 (m, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 16.4, 16.5 (2d,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 6.7$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 26.3, 26.5, 27.4, 28.1 (4 Me), 32.1 (d,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 191$  Hz, CH), 63.2, 63.4 (2d,  $^2J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 6.9$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 64.3, 65.5 (2s, 2 C<sub>q</sub>), 69.2 (d,  $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 3.0$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>S), 275.9 (C=S).  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 21.45. CI-MS ( $\text{NH}_3$ ): 340 (8,  $[M+\text{NH}_4]^+$ ), 325 (10), 323 (100,  $[M+1]^+$ ), 291 (5). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS<sub>2</sub>: C, 48.43; H, 7.19; S, 19.89. Found: C, 48.34; H, 7.16; S, 19.59.

*Diethyl (5,5-dichloro-4,4,6,6-tetramethyl-1-thiaspiro[2.3]hexane)-2-phosphonate (7c)*. Yield: 220 mg (61%). Colorless crystals (hexane); mp 48–50 °C. IR: 2988s, 2931m, 1466m, 1370m, 1259s and 1244s (P=O), 1054vs and 1030vs (P–O–C), 973s, 920s, 817m, 533m.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 1.13, 1.35, 1.48, 1.69 (4s, 4 Me), 1.36–1.38 (m, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.67 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H,P}} = 8.2$  Hz, CH), 4.14–4.23 (m, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 16.4, 16.5 (2d,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 6.0$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 26.0, 26.3, 26.9, 27.8 (4 Me), 29.8 (d,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 192$  Hz, CH), 54.2 (s, C<sub>q</sub>), 55.3 (d,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 2.4$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 63.0, 63.4 (d,  $^2J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 6.8$  Hz, MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 67.1 (d,  $J_{\text{C,P}} = 3.0$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>S), 100.0 (s, CCl<sub>2</sub>).  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 21.01. CI-MS ( $\text{NH}_3$ ): 691 (8), 378 (100,  $[M+\text{NH}_3]^+$ ), 346 (34), 329 (30), 291 (5). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>PS: C, 43.22; H, 6.42; S, 8.57. Found: C, 43.17; H, 6.31; S, 8.46.

*Diethyl (1,1,3,3-tetramethylindane-2-spiro-2'-thiirane)-3-phosphonate (7d)*. Yield: 230 mg (65%). Colorless crystals (hexane); mp 80–83 °C. IR: 2975s, 2931m, 1632m, 1483s, 1257s (P=O), 1052vs and

1025<sub>vs</sub> (P–O–C), 973<sub>s</sub>, 766<sub>s</sub>, 756<sub>s</sub>, 540<sub>m</sub>, 526<sub>m</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.13, 1.43, 1.53, 1.64 (4<sub>s</sub>, 4 Me), 1.34–1.42 (*m*, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.76 (*d*, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H,P</sub> = 5.0 Hz, CH), 4.17–4.31 (*m*, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.13–7.29 (*m*, 4 arom. H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.4, 16.6 (2<sub>d</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> ≈ 5.9 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 27.2, 30.3, 30.9, 32.6 (4 Me), 30.7 (*d*, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 194 Hz, CH), 47.0 (*d*, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 2.0 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 48.4 (*s*, C<sub>q</sub>), 62.4, 63.4 (2<sub>d</sub>, J<sub>C,P</sub> ≈ 6.8 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 73.9 (*d*, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 3.0 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>S), 122.0, 122.4, 127.2, 127.6 (4 arom. CH), 147.3, 150.2 (2 arom. C<sub>q</sub>). CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 645 (8), 372 (30, [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), 340 (24), 323 (100). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS: C, 60.99; H, 7.68; S, 9.05. Found: C, 60.65; H, 7.66; S, 9.00.

*Reactions of thioketones 6b, 6e–6g with diethyl diazomethylphosphonate (1); desulfurization of thiiranes 7e, 8, 12 and 15 with tris(diethylamino)phosphine. General procedure.* To a boiling solution of **1** (1 mmol, in the case of **6b**, 3 mmol of **1** were used) in toluene (2–5 mL) was portionally added **6b** or **6e** (1 mmol) in toluene (5–10 mL). The mixtures were heated under reflux for 2–3 h. Thiones **6f** and **6g** and **1** were heated in dry THF (2 mL) for 0.5–2 h. After completion of the reaction and evaporation of the solvent, the crude mixture was crystallized from hexane to give a mixture of thiiranes as a colorless solid. This material was treated with (Et<sub>2</sub>N)<sub>3</sub>P (1.2 mmol) in refluxing dry THF (2 mL) for 2–4 h yielding a 1:4 mixture of *cis*-**9** and *trans*-**9**. The products were separated chromatographically (SiO<sub>2</sub>, hexane/AcOEt: 3.5:1.5). In the case of **6b**, an analytically pure sample was obtained after crystallization from hexane in dry ice. Yields refer to isolated and purified products.

*Diethyl* ({3-[(diethoxyphosphoryl)methylene]-2,2,4,4-tetramethylcyclobutan-1-ylidene)methanephosphonate (**9**). After layer chromatography, a single isomer of **9**, i.e., *trans*-**9**, was isolated. Yield: 200 mg (51%). Colorless crystals (hexane); mp 80–82 °C. IR: 2983<sub>m</sub>, 2961<sub>m</sub>, 1634<sub>s</sub>, 1249<sub>vs</sub> (P=O), 1050<sub>vs</sub> and 1030<sub>vs</sub> (P–O–C), 964<sub>s</sub>, 855<sub>m</sub>, 823<sub>m</sub>, 553<sub>m</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.33 (*t*, J<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 1.49 (*s*, 4 Me), 4.06 (*quint*-like, J<sub>H,H</sub> ≈ J<sub>H,P</sub> ≈ 7 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.45 (*d*, J<sub>H,P</sub> = 14.0 Hz, 2 =CH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.2 (*d*, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 6.4 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 25.9 (4 Me), 52.1 (*dd*, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 22.4 and 8.7 Hz, 2 C<sub>q</sub>), 61.2 (*d*, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 5.4 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 105.4 (*d*, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 192.2 Hz, =CH), 182.4 (*s*, C<sub>q</sub>). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.93. CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 410 (20), 409 (100, [M+1]<sup>+</sup>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>: C, 52.94; H, 8.39. Found: C, 52.47; H, 8.33.

*Diethyl* (adamantan-2-ylidene)methanephosphonate (**11**). Yield: 160 mg (56%). Colorless, thick oil. IR: 2980<sub>m</sub>, 2907<sub>s</sub>, 2852<sub>m</sub>, 1625<sub>m</sub>, 1450<sub>m</sub>, 1244<sub>s</sub> (P=O), 1055<sub>vs</sub> and 1028<sub>vs</sub> (P–O–C), 961<sub>s</sub>, 819<sub>m</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.32 (*t*, J<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 1.78–1.90, 1.90–2.02 (2<sub>m</sub>, 12 H), 2.48 (*br s*, 1 H), 3.50 (*br s*, 1 H), 4.06 (*quint*-like, J<sub>H,H</sub> ≈ J<sub>H,P</sub> ≈ 7 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.27 (*d*, J<sub>H,P</sub> = 20.5 Hz, =CH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.3 (*d*, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 6.6 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 27.6 (2 CH), 35.2 (*d*, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> ≈ 7 Hz, CH), 36.6, 39.1, 39.8 (4 CH<sub>2</sub>),

42.5 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 25$  Hz, CH), 61.0 (2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 103.6 (*d*,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 187.9$  Hz, =CH), =C not detected.  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 19.58. CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 286 (17), 285 (100,  $[M+1]^+$ ). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>3</sub>P: C, 63.36; H, 8.86. Found: C, 63.43; H, 8.90.

*Diethyl (1,3,3-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylidene)methanephosphonate (13)*. A 4:1 mixture of isomeric compounds **13** (*Z*- and *E*- attribution is unknown) was obtained as the crude product. Yield: 200 mg (70%). After column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>), a single isomer of **13** was isolated as yellowish, thick oil. IR (neat): 2977*s*, 2961*s*, 1626*m*, 1240*s* (P=O), 1055*vs* and 1030*vs* (P–O–C), 961*s*, 823*m*.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.05, 1.07, 1.57 (3*s*, 3 Me), 1.25 (*d*-like, 2 H), 1.33 (*t*,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.1$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 1.40–1.95 (*m*, 5 H), 4.00–4.14 (*m*, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.23 (*d*,  $J_{\text{H,P}} = 14.0$  Hz, =CH).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.2 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 6.7$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 19.2, 26.3, 28.6 (3 Me), 25.1, 35.0, 46.0 (3 CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.4 (CH), 47.4 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 19.3$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 52.3 (*s*, C<sub>q</sub>), 61.0 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 22.3$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 102.3 (*d*,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 197.0$  Hz, =CH), =C not detected.  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 20.00. CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 288 (17), 287 (100,  $[M+1]^+$ ), 286 (7).

*Diethyl (2,2,6,6-tetramethylcyclohexylidene)methanephosphonate (16)*. Yield: 150 mg (53%). Yellowish, thick oil. IR (neat): 2962*s*, 2932*s*, 2870*m*, 1585*m*, 1467*m*, 1389*m*, 1366*m*, 1243*s* (P=O), 1056*vs* and 1030*vs* (P–O–C), 958*s*, 784*m*, 567*m*.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.18, 1.42 (2*s*, 4 Me), 1.327, 1.328 (2*t*,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.0$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 1.45–1.55 (*m*, 4 H), 1.60–1.68 (*m*, 2 H), 4.00–4.12 (*m*, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.63 (*d*,  $J_{\text{H,P}} = 8.1$  Hz, =CH).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.2 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 6.6$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 17.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.4, 32.4 (2 Me), 37.6 (*s*, C<sub>q</sub>), 38.5, 40.9 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.5 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} \approx 7$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 61.0 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 6.2$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 110.0 (*d*,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 192.7$  Hz, =CH), =C not detected.  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 20.36. CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 290 (17), 289 (100,  $[M+1]^+$ ). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>3</sub>P: C, 62.48; H, 10.14. Found: C, 62.19; H, 9.86.

*Reaction of 2,2,6,6-tetramethylcyclohexanethione (6g) in THF; formation of 17*. A solution of **1** (178 mg, 1 mmol) and **6g** (170 mg, 1 mmol) in dry THF (stored for a longer time over sodium, 1 mL) was heated under reflux for 0.5 h. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude mixture was crystallized from hexane to give *diethyl (6,6,10,10-tetramethyl-4-thia-1,2-diazaspiro[4.5]dec-2-ene)-3-phosphonate (17)*. Yield: 120 mg (35%). Colorless crystals; mp 105–120 °C (decomp.). IR (KBr): 3250*s*, 2982*m*, 2959*m*, 2933*m*, 2868*m*, 1526*m*, 1440*m*, 1246*s* (P=O), 1038*s* (P–O–C), 984*m*, 961*m*, 766*m*, 522*m*.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.01 (*s*, 2 Me), 1.09 (*s*, 2 Me), 1.36 (*t*,  $J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.0$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 1.40–1.65 (*m*, 3 CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.10–4.24 (*m*, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.65 (br *s*, NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 16.3 (*d*,  $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 6.4$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 18.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.2 (2 Me), 29.4 (2 Me), 36.5 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 41.8 (2 C<sub>q</sub>), 63.1 (*d*,  $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 5.2$  Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 100.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.6 (*d*,  $^1J_{\text{C,P}} = 242$  Hz, C<sub>q</sub>).  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 6.6. CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 350 (18), 349 (100,  $[M+1]^+$ ), 321 (5), 264 (7), 223 (6). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS: C, 51.71; H, 8.39; N, 8.04. Found: C, 51.82; H, 7.90; N, 7.81.

*Reaction of thiocamphor (6h) with 1.* A solution of **6h** (168 mg, 1 mmol) and **1** (178 mg, 1 mmol) in dry THF (1 mL) was heated under reflux for 6 h. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude mixture was separated chromatographically on a SiO<sub>2</sub> column (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Et<sub>2</sub>O 1:1) to give *diethyl [(1,7,7-trimethyl-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-en-2-yl)sulfanyl]methanephosphonate (18)*. Yield: 200 mg (63%). Yellow, thick oil. IR (neat): 2983<sub>s</sub>, 2954<sub>s</sub>, 2911<sub>s</sub>, 1563<sub>m</sub>, 1474<sub>m</sub>, 1452<sub>m</sub>, 1389<sub>s</sub>, 1375<sub>s</sub>, 1258<sub>s</sub> (P=O), 1054<sub>s</sub> and 1026<sub>s</sub> (P–O–C), 965<sub>s</sub>, 827<sub>m</sub>, 821<sub>m</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 0.79, 0.81, 1.01 (3s, 3 Me), 1.10–2.45 (m, 5 H), 1.32 (t, J<sub>H,H</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.94 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>H,P</sub> = 16.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>P), 3.95–4.40 (m, 2 MeCH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.58 (d, J<sub>H,H</sub> = 4.3 Hz, =CH). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 125.1 (s, C=CH), 143.5 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>C,P</sub> = 7.5 Hz, C=CH). <sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 24.09. CI-MS (NH<sub>3</sub>): 320 (18), 319 (100, [M+1]<sup>+</sup>), 287 (30). Anal. Calcd for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>3</sub>PS: C, 56.58; H, 8.55, S, 10.07. Found: C, 56.61; H, 8.56, S, 9.89.

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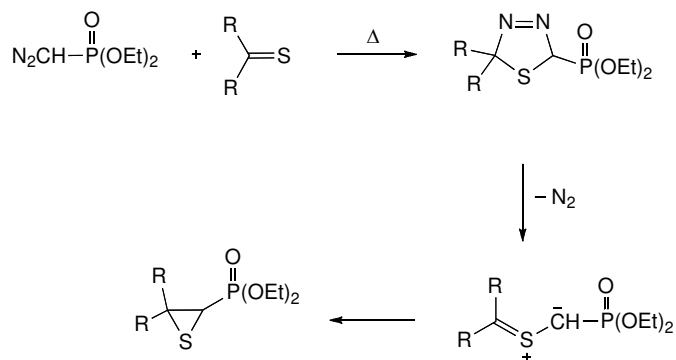
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## Graphical Abstract

### FORMATION OF PHOSPHONYLATED THIIRANES IN THE REACTION OF A DIAZOMETHANEPHOSPHONATE AND CYCLOALIPHATIC THIOKETONES

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1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition   Phosphonates   Thiiranes   Thiocarbonyl ylides   Thioketones